

PHARMACY BOARD[657]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 147.76 and 272C.3, the Board of Pharmacy hereby amends Chapter 2, “Pharmacist Licenses,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The amendments require that a pharmacist complete no less than 0.2 continuing education units (CEUs) in activities dealing with patient or medication safety and that a pharmacist complete no less than 0.2 CEUs in activities dealing with pharmacy law. The pharmacy law credits shall be obtained through Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited provider activities; the patient or medication safety credits may be obtained through ACPE-accredited provider activities or through non-ACPE provider activities if those activities are provided by an accredited health-professional continuing education provider, such as a continuing medical education (CME) provider, and if the activity content directly relates to the pharmacist’s professional practice. The rules continue to require that a pharmacist complete at least 50 percent of the total required continuing education credits, or 1.5 CEUs, in ACPE-accredited provider activities dealing with drug therapy. The amendments do not change the total number of continuing education credits required for pharmacist license renewal.

Requests for waiver or variance of the discretionary provisions of these rules will be considered pursuant to 657—Chapter 34.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the June 15, 2011, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 9554B**. The Board received written comments regarding the proposed amendments. One commenter objected to any identification by the Board of required continuing education subject matter, suggesting that pharmacists should be permitted to use their professional judgment to determine the course subjects that would be most beneficial to a pharmacist’s practice. The other commenter supported the identification of the specific requirements for continuing education activities in medication safety and pharmacy law. The same commenter also suggested that the Board require that all pharmacist continuing education be obtained through ACPE-accredited provider activities. The adopted amendments are identical to those published under Notice.

The amendments were approved during the September 13, 2011, meeting of the Board of Pharmacy. After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 147.10, 155A.11, and 272C.3.

These amendments will become effective on November 9, 2011.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 2.12(1) as follows:

2.12(1) Continuing education activity attendance. Continuing education activities that carry the seal of an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited provider will automatically qualify for continuing education credit. Attendance is mandated in order for a pharmacist to receive credit unless the activity is an ACPE-accredited correspondence course.

a. Non-ACPE provider activity. A maximum of ~~50 percent~~ 1.3 CEUs (13 contact hours) of the total 3.0 CEUs of continuing education credits required pursuant to subrule 2.12(4) may be obtained through completion of non-ACPE provider activities if such activities are provided by an accredited health-professional continuing education provider, such as a continuing medical education (CME) provider, and if the activity content directly relates to the pharmacist’s professional practice. The pharmacist is responsible for ensuring that the activity content directly relates to the pharmacist’s professional practice. In addition, if one or more non-ACPE provider activities are intended to fulfill the requirement in paragraph 2.12(4) “c,” the pharmacist is responsible for ensuring the activity content relates to patient or medication safety.

b. Exemption for health-related graduate studies. A pharmacist who is continuing formal education in health-related graduate programs, including participation in a pharmacy residency program, may be exempted from meeting the continuing education requirements during the period of such enrollment or participation. An applicant for this exemption shall petition the board, as soon as possible

following enrollment in the qualifying graduate program or commencement of the pharmacy residency program and prior to completion of the qualifying program, on forms provided by the board office. At the discretion of the board, exemption during part-time or short-term enrollment in a health-related graduate program may be prorated for the actual period of such enrollment.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 2.12(4) as follows:

2.12(4) Continuing education activity topics. Each pharmacist is required to obtain continuing education by completing activities in the topics specified in this subrule.

a. Drug therapy. A minimum of 1.5 CEUs (15 contact hours) of the pharmacist's required 3.0 CEUs shall be in ACPE-accredited courses activities dealing with drug therapy. Activities qualifying for the drug therapy requirement will include the ACPE topic designator "01" or "02" in the last two digits of the universal activity number.

b. Pharmacy law. A minimum of 0.2 CEUs (2 contact hours) of the pharmacist's required 3.0 CEUs shall be in ACPE-accredited activities dealing with pharmacy law. Activities qualifying for the pharmacy law requirement will include the ACPE topic designator "03" in the last two digits of the universal activity number.

c. Patient or medication safety. A minimum of 0.2 CEUs (2 contact hours) of the pharmacist's required 3.0 CEUs shall be in activities dealing with patient or medication safety. Activities completed to fulfill this requirement may be ACPE-accredited activities, in which case the last two digits of the universal activity number will include the ACPE topic designator "05," or non-ACPE provider activities as provided in subrule 2.12(1).

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 10/5/11.